AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (currently amended): An image transformation apparatus comprising:

an image receiving section for receiving an image represented by digital data;

an image sort discrimination section for discriminating whether the image received by said image receiving section is a halftone dot image or a multiple gradation image;

an image transformation section for applying a conversion processing for the multiple gradation image to the halftone dot image when it is decided by said image sort discrimination section that the image received by said image receiving section is the multiple gradation image; and

a driver section for outputting an image discriminated as the halftone dot image by said image sort discrimination section and an image converted into the halftone dot image by said image transformation section to an image output device for outputting a visual image,

wherein the received image is either a halftone dot image or a multiple gradation image.

2.   (original): An image transformation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image receiving section receives a color image, and said image transformation section applies a color conversion processing to a color image decided by said image sort discrimination section

that the image received by said image receiving section is the multiple gradation image, and

applies the conversion processing for the multiple gradation image to the halftone dot image.

3.   (original): An image transformation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said

image receiving section receives together with the image additional information indicating

whether the image received by said image receiving section is the halftone dot image or the

multiple gradation image, and said image sort discrimination section discriminates whether the

image received by said image receiving section is the halftone dot image or the multiple

gradation image in accordance with the additional information.

4.   (original): An image transformation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said

image receiving section is adapted to receive a binary halftone dot image and a 256 gradation of

multiple gradation image.

5.   (currently amended): An image transformation program storage medium storing

an image transformation program which causes a computer system to operate as an image

transformation apparatus for performing an image transformation upon receipt of an image

represented by digital data, when the image transformation program is executed by the computer

system, said image transformation program comprising:

an image sort discrimination section for discriminating whether the received image is a

halftone dot image or a multiple gradation image;

an image transformation section for applying a conversion processing for the multiple

gradation image to the halftone dot image when it is decided by said image sort discrimination

section that the received image is the multiple gradation image; and

a driver section for outputting an image discriminated as the halftone dot image by said

image sort discrimination section and an image converted into the halftone dot image by said

image transformation section to an image output device for outputting a visual image,

wherein the received image is either a halftone dot image or a multiple gradation image.

6.   (original): An image transformation program storage medium according to claim

5, wherein said image transformation program causes the computer system to operate as an

image transformation apparatus for performing an image transformation upon receipt of a color

image, when the image transformation program is executed by the computer system, and

wherein said image transformation section applies a color conversion processing to a

color image decided by said image sort discrimination section that the received image is the

multiple gradation image, and applies the conversion processing for the multiple gradation image

to the halftone dot image.

7.   (currently amended): ~~The image transformation apparatus of claim 1,~~ An image

transformation apparatus comprising:

an image receiving section for receiving an image represented by digital data;

an image sort discrimination section for discriminating whether the image received by said image receiving section is a halftone dot image or a multiple gradation image;

an image transformation section for applying a conversion processing for the multiple gradation image to the halftone dot image when it is decided by said image sort discrimination section that the image received by said image receiving section is the multiple gradation image; and

a driver section for outputting an image discriminated as the halftone dot image by said image sort discrimination section and an image converted into the halftone dot image by said image transformation section to an image output device for outputting a visual image, wherein the image receiving section is adapted to receive images from a raster image processor.

8.   (previously presented): The image transformation apparatus of claim 1, the image receiving section is adapted to receive a ternary halftone dot image or a quaternary halftone dot image.

9.   (previously presented): The image transformation apparatus of claim 1, the image receiving section is adapted to receive a multiple gradation image of 128 gradations or 1024 gradations.

10.   (currently amended): ~~The image transformation apparatus of claim 1,~~ An image transformation apparatus comprising:

an image receiving section for receiving an image represented by digital data;

an image sort discrimination section for discriminating whether the image received by said image receiving section is a halftone dot image or a multiple gradation image;

an image transformation section for applying a conversion processing for the multiple gradation image to the halftone dot image when it is decided by said image sort discrimination section that the image received by said image receiving section is the multiple gradation image; and

a driver section for outputting an image discriminated as the halftone dot image by said image sort discrimination section and an image converted into the halftone dot image by said image transformation section to an image output device for outputting a visual image,

wherein the received images do not have page description language.